

Kankakee County Waterways Advisory Subcommittee
June 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Kankakee County Waterways Advisory Subcommittee was held on June 5, 2025, and was called to order by Mr. O'Brien at 8:30 am. The following members were present:

Mr. Hodak, Mr. Frogge, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Koehler, Mr. Schultz, Ms. Crosby, Mr. Huntley & Mr. O'Brien.

Members Absent – Mr. Johnson, Mr. Carrico, Mr. Munjoy & Mr. Surprenant.

Quorum – Present

Kankakee County Board Members Present – Mr. Long. Also in attendance were Mr. Greg Heiden & Mr. Eric Cavender.

Public Commentary – None

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the April 3, 2025 meeting were not presented and will be available for approval at the next scheduled meeting.

Education – Mr. Cavender, on behalf of Mr. Carrico, advised the US Coast Guard in cooperation with the County Waterways Committee is presenting a Boating Safety Course on July 19th. The class will be held at the Kankakee County Health Department from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm with sponsorship by the Kankakee County Waterways Division, Kankakee County Health Department & Jimmy Jo's BBQ. Boating Safety Checks are also available free of charge and please contact Mr. Carrico for details.

Restoration – Mr. Cavender provided an update for the Aroma Park Dredging Project with the progress at two thirds completion and completion anticipated in about a month's time. The flow appears to be opening because of the work. Mr. Heiden provided an update on the equipment (progressing) and the training status for the tree crane.

Kankakee & Yellow River Basin Development Commission Updates – Mr. Huntley will be attending the next meeting scheduled for June 20th in Knox, IN as our representative on the Indiana Commission and their meetings are regularly scheduled quarterly.

Old Business – None

New Business – Mr. Cavender reviewed the ordinance that created this subcommittee and was amended to add a new member to act as the representative to the Indiana Commission. He also discussed the proposed by-laws to help guide this subcommittee. With no questions from the subcommittee, a motion was made by Mr. Koehler and seconded by Mr. Schultz to recommend

approval of the By-Laws as presented. All subcommittee members in attendance were in favor of the motion.

Mr. Cavender, on behalf of Mr. Wilson, provided an update of the state budget regarding the funding provided by the State of Illinois and supported by Sen. Joyce. All the unused funds for waterway equipment purchases were reallocated in next year's budget.

Upon input and discussion from the subcommittee, it would like to make a recommendation to the Waterway Committee to proceed with creating mapping the Kankakee & Iroquois Rivers in Kankakee County. The information can be utilized by Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS, Kancomm and users (the public) of the river to identify locations, access ramps, islands, bridges to aid in assistance when utilizing the river, similar to an interstate mile marker. Markings with information/location, with possibly QR codes and GPS coordinates, as well as safety signs at river access points would assist in improving river safety for all. With the form of a motion to create a mapping (with the associated information as discussed) of the Kankakee & Iroquois Rivers in Kankakee County was made by Ms. Crosby and seconded by Mr. Schultz. All subcommittee members in attendance were in favor of the motion.

The next meeting will be held on August 7th, 2025, at 8:30 am.

Adjournment – Mr. Koehler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 am. The motion was seconded by Ms. Crosby. All subcommittee members in attendance were in favor of the motion.